

Woman of Influence honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, the Des Moines Business Record.

Since 2000, the Des Moines Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a group of standout female leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities either personally or professionally, forging a path for other women to follow. The women given this prestigious award are individuals who have selflessly dedicated their time and proven their leadership abilities across a variety of professional fields.

Lt. Governor Reynolds began her political career by serving four terms as the Clarke County Treasurer. She was then elected State Senator of Iowa's 48th Senate District, where she served until 2010. During her time in the Senate, the Republican nominee for Governor, Terry Branstad, asked then Senator Kim Reynolds to serve on his ticket as the nominee for Lt. Governor. She accepted his request and the rest is history.

Lt. Governor Reynolds has dedicated her life to serving the people of Iowa. As Lt. Governor she has leveraged her unique understanding of small rural communities and their governments to bring good, high paying jobs to the state. Lt. Governor Reynolds has also built strong, lasting relationships with some of Iowa's most important global trading partners. Her long list of accomplishments is a testament to her hard work, dedication and willingness to selflessly serve all Iowans.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud her for utilizing her talents to better the State of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating her on receiving this esteemed designation, and wishing her the best of luck in all her future endeavors.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 29, 2015*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, July 22, 2015, I was detained in a meeting and unable to make the first vote in a series. I would have voted "No" on roll call vote No. 450 (on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 369).

#### IN RECOGNITION OF JANET SIKES' SERVICE AS FIRE CHIEF OF THE CITY OF WOODHAVEN

#### HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 29, 2015*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Janet Sikes for her 29 years of service to the Woodhaven Fire Department, 18 of those served as Fire Chief. During her career, Janet has saved many lives, and enriched countless others.

Janet has served as a role model in our community as Woodhaven's first female fire

chief. Her qualifications and professionalism as an emergency medical technician, paramedic, and arson investigator have inspired others towards public service and her ability to coordinate with the department's partners is much-praised among her colleagues. Her dedication and good humor has been a tremendous asset for the city, and has helped the Fire Department offset budget restrictions and foster a greater sense of community in Woodhaven and beyond. Janet is a true gem in our community and Woodhaven is fortunate to call her their own and grateful for her contributions.

Janet's commitment to education has been evidenced by her annual trips to each elementary school in the city to teach fire safety. "Firefighter Jan" is no stranger to the classroom, and has used her experience as a physical education instructor to promote fire prevention techniques that students find as exciting as they are informative. Jan has also promoted higher education in Woodhaven, partnering with Wayne County Community College to provide two full scholarships for students in her community to pursue a career in public safety.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to honor Chief Janet Sikes for her twenty-nine years of service and her lasting impact on the Downriver communities. I thank her for her leadership, and wish her many years of success.

#### URGING AWARD OF CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO PRESIDENT LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON FOR HIS EXTRAORDINARY RECORD OF ACHIEVEMENT IN THE FIELD OF DOMESTIC AFFAIRS

#### HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 29, 2015*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to address the House for 1 minute and revise and extend my remarks.

Today I introduced legislation awarding the Congressional Gold Medal to Lyndon Baines Johnson, the 36th President of the United States whose vision and leadership secured passage of the landmark Voting Rights Act of 1965, the Social Security Amendments Act (Medicare) of 1965, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Higher Education Act of 1965, and the Immigration and Naturalization Act of 1965.

The awarding of the Congressional Gold Medal is long overdue recognition of the remarkable record of achievement in the field of domestic affairs of the person most responsible for several of the nation's landmark laws that mark their 50th anniversary this year.

Mr. Speaker, as a Member of Congress from the Tenth Congressional District of Texas, as Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate, Vice-President and President of the United States, Lyndon Baines Johnson's domestic accomplishments in the fields of civil rights, education, and economic opportunity rank among the greatest achievements of the past half century.

As President, Lyndon Johnson proposed, championed, led to passage, and signed into

law on August 6, 1965 the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which swept away barriers impeding millions of Americans from meaningful participation in American political life.

On July 30, 1965, President Johnson signed into law the Social Security Amendments Act of 1965, which we today know as Medicare, which has transformed the delivery of health care in the United States and which, along with Social Security, reduced the rate of poverty among the elderly from 28.5 percent in 1966 to 9.1 percent in 2012.

On July 2, 1964 President Johnson secured passage and signed into law the most sweeping civil rights legislation since Reconstruction, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination in employment, education, and public accommodations based on race, color, religion, or national origin.

On November 8, 1965, President Johnson signed into law the Higher Education Act, which provided need-based financial aid to students in the form of scholarships, work-study grants, and loans, and thus for the first time made higher education more accessible to populations of persons who were previously unable to attend college because of economic circumstances.

On October 3, 1965, President Johnson signed into law the Immigration and Naturalization Act of 1965, which transformed the nation's immigration system by abolishing the racially based quota system that had defined American immigration policy for the previous four decades and replaced it with a policy whose central purpose was family reunification, with a preference for immigrants with specific skillsets.

According to Robert A. Caro, the pre-eminent biographer of Lyndon Baines Johnson, with the single exception of Abraham Lincoln, Lyndon Johnson was the greatest champion of the poor and underprivileged in the history of the Republic and was the President "who wrote mercy and justice into the statute books by which America was governed."

I invite all Members to join me in sponsoring this legislation awarding the Congressional Gold Medal and recognizing the extraordinary domestic achievements of President Lyndon Baines Johnson, the 36th President of the United States.

#### HONORING DAVID FINKEL

#### HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 29, 2015*

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the remarkable life of David B. Finkel, an honorable veteran, a distinguished civil rights attorney, an esteemed elected official, and someone I was privileged to call a friend. David deeply impacted countless lives by standing up for civil rights, freedom of speech, affordable housing, and educational equality for over six decades. David was also a longtime and devoted member of the Sholem community and will be remembered for his integrity and compassion as a "warrior for justice."

David, the son of Jewish immigrants fleeing persecution in Europe, lived through historical events such as the Great Depression and World War II. These heavy experiences